

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) Method for the manufacture of heat-exchanger tubes bent in a U-shape according to ~~claim~~ claim 17, characterized in that the drawn tube material ~~(1)~~ or the tube portions ~~(10)~~ are subjected to quality control ~~in one of steps a) to e).~~

3. (Currently Amended) Method for the manufacture of heat-exchanger tubes bent in a U-shape according to ~~claim~~ claim 17, characterized in that the drawn heat-exchanger tube material ~~(1)~~ is flushed with inert gas.

4. (Currently Amended) Method for the manufacture of heat-exchanger tubes bent in a U-shape according to claim 3, characterized in that the inert gas flows counter to the direction in which the drawn heat-exchanger tube material ~~(1)~~ is uncoiled.

5. (Currently Amended) Method for the manufacture of heat-exchanger tubes bent in a U-shape according to claim 2, characterized in that after cutting ~~to length for separation~~ into tube portions ~~(10)~~, defective tube portions are sorted out after the quality control.

6. (Currently Amended - Withdrawn) Method for the manufacture of heat-exchanger tubes bent in a U-shape according to ~~claim~~ claim 17, characterized in that, after cutting to the desired length ~~for separation~~, the tube

portions ~~(10)~~ are subjected to internal and/or external cleaning.

7. (Currently Amended - Withdrawn) Method for the manufacture of heat-exchanger tubes ~~bent in a U-shape~~ according to ~~claim 1~~claim 17, characterized in that either the drawn heat-exchanger tube material ~~(1)~~ is annealed in a continuous operation or the ~~separated~~ tube portions ~~(10)~~ are annealed in a batch operation.

8. (Currently Amended - Withdrawn) Method for the manufacture of heat-exchanger tubes bent in a U-shape according to ~~claim 1~~claim 17, characterized in that, after straightening and before testing, the drawn heat-exchanger tube material ~~(1)~~ is subjected to a ribbing process.

9. (Currently Amended - Withdrawn) Method for the manufacture of heat-exchanger tubes ~~bent in a U-shape~~ according to ~~claim 1~~claim 17, characterized in that, when the drawn heat-exchanger tube material ~~(1)~~ is annealed before cutting ~~to length for separation~~ into tube portions ~~(10)~~, the drawn heat-exchanger tube material ~~(1)~~ is deposited on a basket winder and further processed on a single- or multiple-bending device ~~(21)~~.

10. (Withdrawn) Production line for the manufacture of tubes bent in a U-shape from a nonferrous metal, immediately following a tube-production line, comprising:

- a) a storage device having an uncoiling device (2) for drawn tube material (1),
- b) a straightening facility for the uncoiled drawn tube material (1) and testing facility (3),
- c) an annealing unit (4) and a following cooling unit (5) for the drawn tube material (1) before or after a cutting unit (11), for separation into tube portions, for cutting to the starting length or a

multiple of the starting length for a tube (20) bent in a U-shape,

- d) a bending device (21) for bending the tube portions into a U-shape.

11. (Withdrawn) Production line for the manufacture of tubes bent in a U-shape according to claim 10, characterized in that, in order to flush the drawn tube material (1), an inert gas flushing unit (7) is arranged at one end of the tube and a suction apparatus (8) is arranged at the other end.

12. (Withdrawn) Production line for the manufacture of tubes bent in a U-shape according to claim 10, characterized in that the cutting unit (11) is followed by a sorting apparatus (12) for different lengths of the tube portions (10).

13. (Withdrawn) Production line for the manufacture of tubes bent in a U-shape according to claim 12, characterized in that a cleaning apparatus (13) is arranged downstream of the cutting unit (11) or optionally downstream of the sorting apparatus (12).

14. (Withdrawn) Production line for the manufacture of tubes bent in a U-shape according to claim 10, characterized in that the annealing unit (4) for the drawn tube material (1) in continuous operation or for the separated tube portions (10) in batch operation is an induction, radiation or convection furnace.

15. (Withdrawn) Production line for the manufacture of tubes bent in a U-shape according to claim 10, characterized in that the straightening facility (3) is followed by a ribbing apparatus (9) for the drawn tube material (1).

16. (Withdrawn) Use of the tubes (20) manufactured according to the method according to claim 1 and bent in a U-shape for heat exchangers.

17. (New) A method of manufacturing lamellar U-shaped heat-exchanger tubes, comprising the steps of:

producing a drawn heat-exchanger tube material made of a nonferrous metal;

coiling the drawn heat-exchanger tube material around a storage device;

uncoiling the drawn heat-exchanger tube material from the storage device;

straightening the drawn heat-exchanger tube material;

cutting the drawn heat-exchanger tube material to form tube portions of a desired length either before or after annealing and subsequently cooling the drawn heat-exchanger tube material; and

bending the tube portions into a U-shape to form the lamellar U-shaped heat-exchanger tubes.